CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to The Study

Gender study is an approach that analyzes gender phenomenon. The term *gender* refers to the social and cultural construction of *masculinity* and *femininity* (Kusumawati, 2007). These constructions are not the condition of being male or female biologically. In contrast, it refers to the behavior and the norms of masculinity and femininity. Masculinity and femininity can be said as a set of qualities, characteristics, behaviors and roles of being man or woman.

For example, generally, men are expected to be physically stronger, athletic, bearded, muscular, barbate, big voice, slim-hipped, and broad-shouldered (Kusumawati, 2007). The traits are active, independent, rational, objective, competitive, logic, and not easily get offended. The men's gesture, in speaking, for example, are expressive, they tend to utter what they have in mind rather than saying it. Their job tends to demand more physical strength and mechanical skills such as drivers, builders, mechanic, and porters.

In the other hand, women are associated neatness, orderliness, soft voice, small shouldered, big hips (Kusumawati, 2007). Their traits tend to be passive, meaning that they keep silent of what they have in mind, emotional, and subjective so that they lead to the passive state. Their professions mostly demand patience and aesthetical skills such as babysitter, housemaid, and interior designs.

Currently, in some cases, it is difficult to differ between some man and woman in their appearances, traits, gestures, and may be in their professions. Sometimes they act the other way around, a man acts as a woman and a woman acts as a man. Despite their free self actualization, this seems to divert from the social construction where the norms teaches a man and a woman should act upon the commonly agreed convention of the society.

However, the phenomenon happening on a few characteristic and description above often overlaps with the phenomenon that is currently happening. For example, driver profession has now also been taken by women, similarly housemaid profession has now also been taken by men. Some men also put emphasis on their look and appearances or have long hair cut, making it difficult to be physically recognized as men. This fact also occurs in some women.

Looking at these phenomena, it may be hard to define the masculinity and femininity on a man or woman. This issue is reflected in the literary works; the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde*. There is an issue of gender in novel. The Picture of Dorian Gray is an interesting novel to analyze in terms of the gender, masculinity and femininity issues in particular. The gender prescribed by the society can be seen in each character.

Dorian Gray is twenty years old, young and handsome. His youthful and handsomeness makes other characters interested, but he also has feminine side. He is so pure, soft and weak although he has a masculine appearance. This phenomenon makes writer interested to discuss about the masculinity and

femininity on Dorian Gray. This character represents the masculinity and femininity in gender and the writer focuses on the issue under the study. The writer analyzes the Dorian Gray character using the Gender Theory. The writer expects to discover the representation the masculinity and femininity through the Dorian Gray character on the novel.

This research enriches the collection of research in English Department of Indonesia University of Computer because none of the existing researches takes into account the case of masculinity and femininity. Therefore, the writer entitles this research "Gender Issues in the Dorian Gray's Character in the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde".

1.2 Research Question

1. How is Dorian's Masculinity and Femininity described in the novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray"?
2. What is the impact of the Gender *Masculinity* and *Femininity* towards the Dorian Gray character?

1.3 Objectives

Based on the research question above, there are several objectives in this research, that are:

1. To describe Dorian's *Masculinity* and *Femininity* representation in the novel "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*".

2. To describe the impact of the *Masculinity* and *Femininity* in three main characters.

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

The theoretical benefit of this research is to recognize the masculinity and femininity that influences by aesthetic movement and social construction. Besides, the writer also hopes this research can give more information for the other researchers who study concerning this topic, the *masculinity and femininity* in English literature and become the other sources for next researcher. The practical benefit of this research is the masculinity and femininity in person are always influence by the aesthetic and social construction in society.

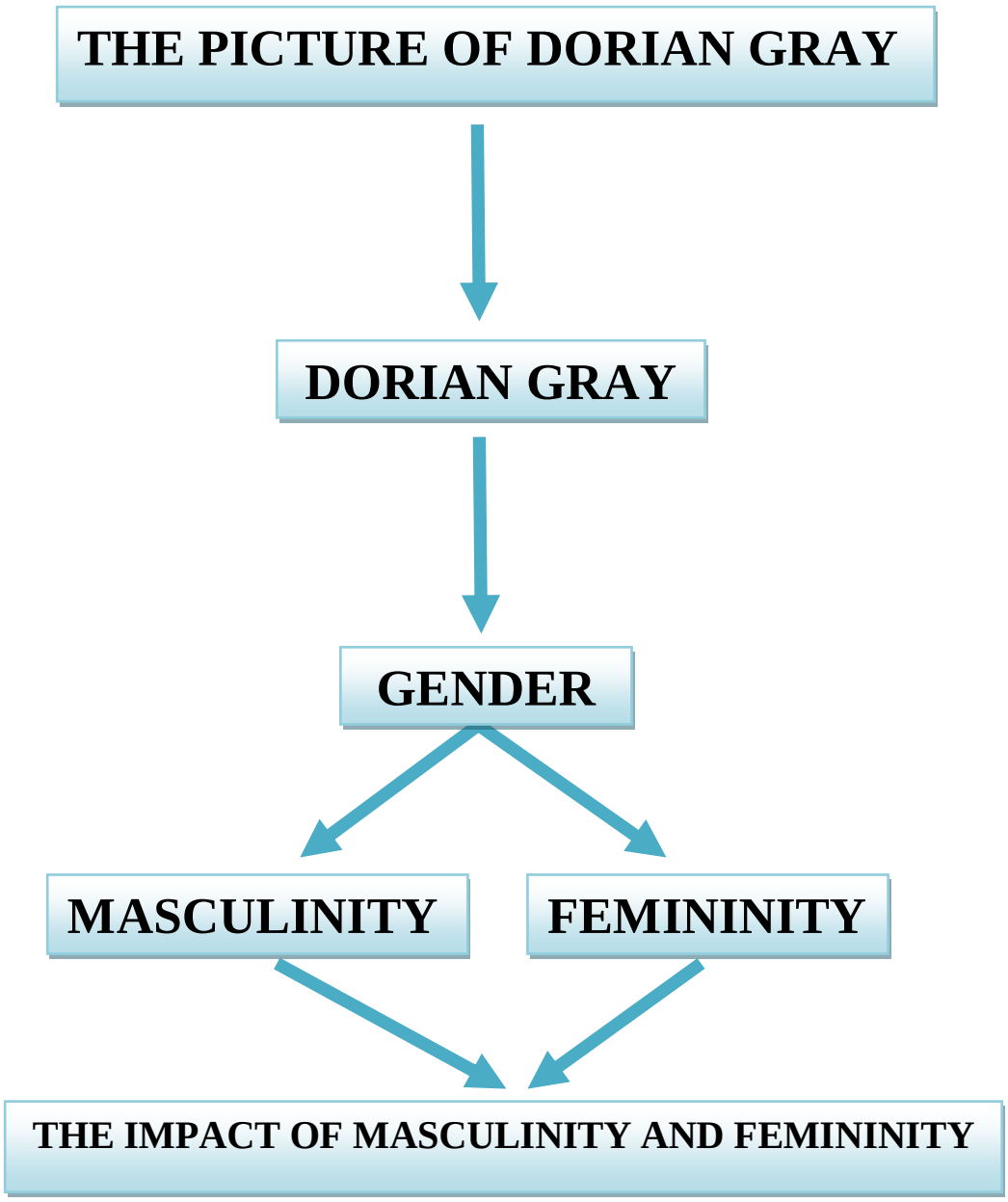
1.5 Framework of Theory

To analyze the gender issue in this novel, the writer uses the *Gender* Theory by Judith Butler (1990). Gender is the social construction that differentiates the masculinity and femininity. Butler said, *"gender is an identity tenuosly constituted in time, instituted in an exterior space through a stylized repetition of acts."* (1990: 140). Gender is not a fixed identity, but it always changes against time and also fit with the repetition of behaviour or manner. Gender appears because of repetition of act. Gender can influences the persons of identity in society. The *Gender* builds person's identity through the social constructions about gender roles. The social construction shapes the *roles of gender* that is being *masculinity* and *femininity*. The concept of *masculinity* and

femininity differentiate man and woman in terms of the manners, behaviour, and gender roles.

Therefore, the writer uses the characterization theory to examine the Dorian Gray in the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray. Dorian Gray character has both masculinity and femininity characteristics. His characteristcs is unique, he can act like a woman but also like a man. His unique characteristic makes an impacts for other character that interested with him, both man and woman. Dorian Gray character will be analyzed by using Gender Theory by Judith Butler and Dorian Gray characteristics describes through the his and other characterization.

Characterization theory that writer used is a process that reveals the personality of character. Characterization have a two types, there are showing and telling. Telling method is delineation direct by the author or by the other character and showing method that analyses the character from their speech, thought, effect, action and looks.



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